



# House Select Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

**JIM TURNER, Ranking Member**

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## **A WATCH LIST THAT WORKS**

### **DEMOCRATS LAY OUT BENCHMARKS FOR TERRORIST SCREENING CENTER**

In advance of the Bush Administration's promise to launch a unified watch list on December 1, Congressman Jim Turner, Ranking Member, and all of the Democratic members of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, sent a report outlining 10 basic requirements for an effective Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) to FBI Director Robert Mueller.

"Having the unified watch list is one of the central components of winning the war on terror. Two years after 9-11, we're still working with 12 different watch lists in 9 different agencies. This is unacceptable," said Turner, referring to the report, *Keeping Terrorists Out of America by Unifying Terrorist Watch Lists: Requirements for an Effective Terrorist Screening Center*.

"The U.S. Government's failure to integrate its multiple terrorist watch lists and make information on suspected terrorists readily available to government security officials is a critical shortcoming in our homeland security structure," the report states. "Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the Bush Administration has promised to achieve this goal, but, as of the second anniversary of the attacks, had not taken any significant action to turn these promises into reality."

"It remains unclear precisely what capabilities the TSC will have when it commences operations on Dec. 1. It is highly likely, however that the TSC will not be fully operational," the report continues.

The report sets forth 10 essential capabilities the TSC must have to be a viable national security tool. It demands that information be comprehensive, easily searchable, and available to law enforcement officials on a timely basis. The list also calls for the protection of privacy and tailored use of information to ensure integrity of intelligence sources and methods.

"This is a basic security function. Every day that goes by without a unified terrorist watch list is a day America is at greater risk than it should be from the threat of global terrorism," said Turner.

Copies of the report and the letter to FBI Director Mueller are available on the Committee Democrats' website at [www.house.gov/hsc/democrats](http://www.house.gov/hsc/democrats).